

S. CON. RES. 38

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Friday, April 11, 2003, or Saturday, April 12, 2003, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, April 28, 2003, or until such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first, and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Saturday, April 12, 2003, through Friday, April 18, 2003, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2003, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 531. Mr. SUNUNU (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 117, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Laborers' International Union of North America, and congratulating members and officers of the Laborers' International Union of North America for the union's many achievements.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 531.** Mr. SUNUNU (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 117, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Laborers' International Union of North America, and congratulating members and officers of the Laborers' International Union of North America for the union's many achievements; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That the Senate—

"(1) recognizes the founding and establishment of labor organizations, which have made a tremendous contribution to the structural development and building of the United States, and to the well-being of countless workers;

"(2) congratulates labor organizations for their many achievements and the strength of their membership; and

"(3) expects that labor organizations will continue their dedicated work and will have an even greater impact in the 21st century and beyond, and will enhance the standard of living and work environment for laborers and other workers in generations to come."

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Friday, April 11, 2003, at 10 a.m., in Dirksen Room 226.

I. Nominations: J. Leon Holmes to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas; Susan G. Braden to be Judge for the Court of Federal Claims; Charles F. Lettow to be Judge for the Court of Federal Claims; Cecilia M. Altonaga to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida; and Patricia Head Minaldi to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana

II. Bills: S. 274—Class Action Fairness Act of 2003; S. 731—Secure Authentication Feature and Enhanced Identification Defense Act of 2003 ("SAFE ID ACT"); S. Res. 108—Designating April 21 through 27, 2003, as "National Cowboy Poetry Week" [BURNS, HATCH, REID, BROWNBACK]; S. Res. 111—Designating April 30, 2003 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans" [HATCH]; and S.J. Res. 8—A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month [BROWNBACK, BIDEN, DEWINE, SCHUMER].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent for fellow Julianne Carter to have the privilege of the floor for the duration of this debate and when we come back for debate on Jeffrey Sutton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SMALLPOX EMERGENCY PERSONNEL PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to H.R. 1770, which is being held at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1770) to provide benefits and other compensation for certain individuals with injuries resulting from administration of smallpox countermeasures, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I rise today in strong support of the Smallpox Compensation Act of 2003.

I applaud the leadership of Senator JUDD GREGG, the distinguished Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. He has done a tremendous benefit for the Nation through this critical legislation when there is such great need to improve our public health preparedness.

I commend Senator EDWARD KENNEDY for his efforts to achieve bipartisan

consensus on the smallpox legislation we are considering today. I also thank all of the members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and for the work of Representatives BILLY TAUZIN and JOHN DINGELL for their efforts to develop and pass this legislation.

Finally, the President of the United States deserves great credit for working to ensure that America is prepared against the threat of bioterrorism, and that the Nation's healthcare workers, first responders, and their families are protected from adverse affects that may result from smallpox vaccinations. Without President Bush's commitment, we could not have reached this critical agreement.

We know the grave danger that a smallpox attack poses. Smallpox is one of the deadliest diseases known to man. Health experts, the Federal Government, and State and local health entities continue to address the smallpox threat, including the development of a long-term immunization plan.

The administration has taken great steps to meet this threat by setting forth an immunization plan for our Nation's healthcare workers and first responders.

However, too many healthcare workers have been deterred from receiving the smallpox vaccine—in part because of uncertainties about what would happen, and how they would provide for themselves, if they suffered a serious adverse reaction to the vaccine.

This legislation helps to respond to that fear. It makes clear that adequate compensation will be available if an individual becomes ill or dies as a result of receiving the smallpox vaccine.

Passing this legislation will help strengthen President Bush's plan to vaccinate healthcare workers, public health officials and first responders—a vaccination strategy that is vital to our national security.

This legislation is part of a long-term strategy. We must continue to work to ensure appropriate liability and compensation measures for future countermeasures, as well as strong communications, surveillance, capacity-building and research efforts to strengthen our overall public health infrastructure to respond to emerging public health threats.

Indeed, this is not purely a public health issue; it is also an issue of national security. We must ensure that an adequate number of healthcare workers and first responders are vaccinated in order to protect the American people should smallpox be used as an offensive weapon. Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, NIH, has noted, in fact, that we would have perhaps only 2-3 days to vaccinate exposed individuals and prevent death in the event of an outbreak. This task would be nearly impossible without having an adequate number of individuals vaccinated prior to an outbreak.

While the risk of a smallpox attack is not necessarily high, the risk is real.